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Soccer News

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PLANNING AHEAD.

Now that the season has passed the half-way mark it is time to pause and take stock of what has been accomplished. It seems a far cry now back to 1944, when the game had reached an all-time low with 5 clubs in Victoria—Prahran, Brighton, South Melbourne United, South Yarra and the combined Moreland-Hakoah, with only the bolstering of two Air Force teams making a competition possible.

This year we see a competition of 30 senior clubs, 20 reserve teams and 30-odd junior teams (to produce the stars of tomorrow).

This has not been achieved without a lot of spade work—much of it behind the scenes by the seldom-thanked, but often abused gentleman, the club secretary.

Heavy work has fallen on the shoulders of Association officials, so that at last it has been found necessary to put club men on the Victorian Soccer Council. All have more than justified their inclusion, not one having missed a Council meeting since their election, besides sitting on various sub-committees (and in some cases helping to produce this much criticised news sheet).

Credit must be given to those devoted souls, the independent Councillors, who have nothing to gain from Soccer and not even a Club to fall back on.

Plenty of work has been done also by the League Management Committee, not always turning out quite as well as expected (with one or two clubs dropping out and new ones being brought in in an effort to keep the 2nd and 3rd division programmes full), but the effort has been there.

Looking forward, we hear rumors of new clubs for 1950 (at least three to date), so that next year further arrangements will have to be mode to accommodate newcomers.

It is hoped that in 1950 all third division clubs will see their way clear to run reserve teams, both for their own convenience and to accommodate those enthusiasts who are looking for a game and can't quite make the first team.

The time has come, in many cases, for well established teams to start putting something back into the game as well as taking something out. Junior teams are the answer to this, and those Clubs who are looking to the future will find the running of junior teams (starting in the under 15 grade where possible) the soundest investment of any for the years to come. It is hoped that 1950 will see many more junior teams, as there are already a lot of boys unable to get games with their present clubs.

Junior coaches must be found, and it is up to Clubs to encourage anyone anxious to take an interest. And those interested in teaching junior Soccer should contact clubs for assistance.

It is often difficult for the average enthusiast to see past the next Saturday's game, but for

the game to go forward it is necessary to plan ahead. The men at the top are doing so!

V. J. M. Dixon.

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PROSPECTS FOR TO-DAY.

Main first division game to-day is between Bradford and Park Rangers at the Henry-Turner Reserve, Footscray. It will be remembered that Bradford surprised when they last met Rangers on May 7, defeating them by 2-0. Rangers will be out to avenge this defeat, but will be set a stiff task, for Bradford's fine effort last Saturday in running the strong Box Hill side to a 2 all draw was meritorious. Their prospects on their home ground, which is a problem to visiting teams, look bright. Rangers although playing good football at present, are used to level ground, and will not find the Bradford field to their liking. It will not surprise if Bradford gives them a bit of a shake again.

Fawkner Park may be the scene of another good game, where South Yarra will meet the improved Moreland team. In their last encounter, Moreland won by 2 goals to nil. A similar victory should result to-day, particularly as Moreland is on its home ground, and is a better combination than early in the season.

The bottom teams, Yallourn, Sunshine Utd. and Western Suburbs will have difficult games, and unless a surprise occurs, prospects of their escape from dangerous relegation zone look remote.

The most interesting game of the second division should be at Olympic Park where Hakoah will meet Ringwood. Both teams are within striking distance in the fight for promotion, and are level on points in third position. A good, close, game should result.

The leading team, Sandringham City, should retain its position at the expense of Preston, but it must be remembered that Preston is a team full of surprises, and it is possible that the unexpected could happen. Preston, sixth on the ladder, have only two victories to their credit, but they have shared the points in five other games.

South Melbourne United suffered its second defeat of the season last week when defeated by Ringwood by 1 goal. South will have to be on their mettle in future games, for they cannot afford to lose any more premiership points if they wish to retain promotion prospects. Their game to-day at Middle Park against Williamstown should result in a win for South, and may be the turning point in South's run of ill-fortune.

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LEAGUE TABLES.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
					Goals		
First Division.							
Brighton	11	9	0	2	33	12	20
Box Hill	12	7	3	2	36	30	16
Moreland	12	7	4	1	41	29	15
Park Rangers	12	6	4	2	29	17	14
Prahran	12	7	5	0	36	33	14
Bradford	11	5	4	2	22	19	12
South Yarra	12	3	6	3	23	28	9
Yallourn	12	3	8	1	28	40	7
Sunshine	12	3	9	0	29	42	6
West. Subs.	12	2	9	1	19	46	5
Second Division.							
Sandringham	12	11	0	1	35	11	23
S. Melbourne	12	9	2	1	46	15	19
Hakoah	12	8	4	0	49	21	16
Ringwood	12	8	4	0	19	15	16
University	12	6	5	1	30	21	13
Preston	12	2	5	5	22	25	9
Heidelberg	12	4	7	1	12	28	9
Yarraville	12	1	8	3	17	33	[illegible]
W'town. *	11	1	8	2	17	44	4
Olympic *	11	1	8	2	12	46	4

* Match not played. Points will be awarded later.

Third Division.							
Juventus	11	11	0	0	50	8	22
George Cross	11	10	1	0	37	7	20
Fifers	11	8	3	0	30	19	16
Northcote	12	6	6	0	33	29	12
Woodlands	11	5	5	1	18	16	11
Y.C.W.M.	9	4	5	0	24	19	8
Metters	10	4	6	0	22	44	8
Macedonians	11	4	7	0	13	31	8
Box Hill	7	3	4	0	6	16	6
Brighton	11	2	8	1	35	48	5
Woodlands A	12	1	11	0	6	44	2

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
					Goals		
First Division Reserves.							
Park Rangers	12	11	1	0	47	9	22
Brighton . .	12	11	1	0	71	14	22
Prahran . . .	12	9	3	0	43	24	18
Box Hill . .	12	7	5	0	31	30	14
Yallourn . .	12	6	5	1	25	29	13
South Yarra *	11	4	5	2	29	33	10
Bradford . .	12	2	6	4	19	28	8
Sunshine . *	10	1	7	2	8	48	4
Moreland . .	12	1	10	1	13	37	3
West. Subs. .	11	1	10	0	18	52	2

x Results not notified.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
ond Division Reserves.							
Sandringham .	12	11	1	0	42	10	22
Hakoah . . .	11	10	1	0	49	7	20
S. Melbourne	11	8	2	1	41	14	17
Preston . . .	12	8	4	0	39	20	16
Ringwood . .	12	5	6	1	31	30	11
Heidelberg . .	12	5	7	0	22	36	10
Olympic . . .	12	4	7	1	13	28	9
W'town . . .	12	3	8	1	26	32	7
Yarraville . .	12	2	10	0	9	64	4
University . .	12	1	11	0	8	39	2

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JUNIOR LEAGUE LADDERS.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
					Goals		
Under 19 Division.							
Yallourn . .	12	11	1	0	34	12	22
Preston . . .	12	9	2	1	30	13	19
Box Hill . .	11	8	1	2	19	8	18
West. Subs. .	12	6	3	3	29	20	15
Brighton . .	12	6	5	1	13	20	13
South Yarra .	12	6	6	0	10	25	12
Hakoah . . .	11	5	6	0	9	14	10
Park Rangers	12	3	8	1	8	40	7
Under 17 Division.							
Sth. Melb. U.	12	12	0	0	65	4	24
Preston . . .	12	10	1	1	44	15	21
Sunshine U. .	11	7	2	2	19	8	16
Coburg . . .	12	6	5	1	25	16	13
Metters . . .	12	5	5	2	31	35	12
Bradford . .	11	6	5	0	11	27	12
Sandringham .	11	5	5	1	12	20	11
Brighton . .	12	4	7	1	15	33	9
Ringwood . .	11	4	6	1	7	17	9
Park Rangers	11	4	6	1	10	38	9
Northcote . .	11	1	10	0	4	39	2

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
					Goals		
Under 15 Division.							
Sth. Melb. U.	11	10	1	0	56	9	20
Box Hill . .	11	10	1	0	52	17	20
Preston . . .	11	7	3	1	27	22	15
Sunshine U. .	12	5	5	2	38	15	12
Brighton . .	12	4	5	3	24	14	11
Ringwood . .	12	5	6	1	44	25	11
Northcote . .	11	4	5	2	34	22	10
West. Subs. .	12	3	5	3	15	34	9
Sandringham .	11	1	8	2	9	49	4
Park Rangers	11	1	10	0	5	97	2

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NEXT SATURDAY'S GAMES.

First Division.

Yallourn v. Bradford, at Yallourn.
Prahran v. Brighton, at Como Park.
Moreland v. West. Subs., at Campbell Res.
Park Rangers v. Sunshine Utd., at Middle Park.
Box Hill v. South Yarra, at Surrey Park.

Second Division.

Williamstown v. Hakoah J.R.C., at Newport.
Heidelberg v. Sth. Melb. Utd., at James Pk.
Preston v. Olympic, at Bell.
Ringwood v. University, at Bedford Park.
Yarraville v. Sandringham, at Kingsville.

(First and Second Division games on opposite grounds.)

Third Division.

Fifers v. Brighton, at National Park, Kew.
Woodlands 'A' v. Woodlands, at Chelmsworth Park, Ivanhoe.
Y.C.W.M. v. George Cross, at Broadmeadows.
Juventus v. Northcote, at Royal Park.
Box Hill v. Metters, at Surrey Park.

Under 19 Division.

Yallourn v. Hakoah J.R.C., at Yallourn.
Preston v. West. Subs., at Bell.
Box Hill v. South Yarra, at Surrey Park.

Under 17 Division.

Brighton v. Preston, at Hurlingham Park.
Sandringham v. Coburg, at Hampton.
Ringwood v. Bradford, at Bedford Park

Metters v. Sunshine Utd., at Nth. Footscray.
Northcote v. Park Rangers, at Merri Park.

Under 15 Division.

Park Rangers v. Sunshine U., at Middle Pk.
Sandringham v. Sth. Melb. Utd., at Hampton.
West. Subs. v. Brighton, at Sunshine
Box Hill v. Ringwood, at Surrey Park.
Northcote v. Preston, at Merri Park.

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RESULTS OF LAST SATURDAY'S GAMES.

First Division.

Park Rangers drew with Brighton, 2-2.
Box Hill drew with Bradford, 2-2.
West. Subs. drew with Yallourn, 1-1.
Moreland d. Prahran, 4-3.
South Yarra d. Sunshine Utd., 5-4.

Second Division.

Ringwood d. South Melb. United, 1-0.
Hakoah PJ.R.C. d. Yarraville, 3-0
Preston drew with Heidelberg, 1-1.
Olympic v. Williamstown — Game not played.
Sandringham v. University — Game not played.

Third Division.

Northcote d. Metters, 3-1.
Y.C.W.M. d. Fifers, 7-0
Juventus d. Brighton, 5-3.
George Cross v. Woodland 'A'—Game not played.
Macedonians v. Box Hill—Game not played.

First Division Reserves.

Brighton d. Park Rangers, 4-1.
Box Hill d. Bradford, 4-1.
Prahran d. Moreland, 1-0.

Second Division Reserves.

Sth. Melb. Utd. d. Ringwood, 1-0.
Williamstown d. Olympic, 5-0.
Preston d. Heidelberg, 7-2.
Hakoah v. Yarraville—Game not played.
University v. Sandringham—Game not played.

Under 19 Division.

Park Rangers d. Brighton, 2-1.
Yallourn d. West. Subs., 4-3.
Box Hill d. Hakoah—Game not played.

Under 17 Division.

Sth. Melb. Utd. d. Brighton, 4-0.
Metters d. Coburg, 6-3.
Sunshine v. Bradford—Game not played.
Ringwood v. Park Rangers—Game not played.
Sandringham v. Northcote—Gome not played.

Under 15 Division.

Sunshine d. West. Subs., 4-0.
Ringwood drew with Brighton, 2-2.
Box Hill v. Preston—Game not played.
Sandringham v. Park Rangers—Game not played.
Sth. Melb. Utd. v. Northcote—Game not played.

HOW THEY FARED ON MAY 7th

First Division.

Brighton d Yallourn, 4-3.
Prahran d. West. Subs., 4-1.
Moreland d. South Yarra, 2-0.
Box Hill d. Sunshine Utd., 6-3.
Bradford d. Park Rangers, 2-0.

Second Division.

Sth. Melb. Utd. d. Williamstown, 8-2
Heidelberg d. Olympic, by default.
Sandringham d. Preston, 4-1.
University d. Yarraville, 2-1.
Hakoah J.R.C. d. Ringwood, 2-0.

STATE TRIALS.

These trials will take place at Olympic Park on Sunday, July 10, July 17 and 24. Players must report by 10 a.m. at ground.

The following are selected for Sunday, July 10:—

Taylor, McFeeters (Box Hill); Goode, Jack Barr, Dobrich, Sinclair, McDougall (Brighto Gilbert, Hardman, Kennedy (Moreland), Stoddard, Sharman (South Yarra); Wilson, Highett (Park Rangers); Ashworth, Tanish (South Melb. United); Daly (Bradford); Azzopardi (George Cross); Carroll (Juventus); Drennan (Sunshine); White (Sandringham).

The State selectors wish to appeal to club masseurs for their help on the above dates, so that Victoria can give our representatives the best attention possible. If prepared to assist us please contact me at FU 5725.

Latest dates given to the selectors for the Jugoslav visit is August 6th v. Australia, and August 10th v. Victoria. Mr. A. Herd, former Scottish International, has been appointed coach and will start on Sunday, 10th July.

A. Kerr, Chairman State Selection Committee

Letters to the Editor

APATHETIC MANAGEMENT.

The apathy which Australian Soccer leaders have displayed towards English Pools Promoters is something I find very hard to understand. If full co-operation had been given, Soccer would have stood to gain tremendously while it had nothing to lose. Pools "made" Soccer in England and yet we find the organising bodies of Queensland and N.S.W. altering their fixtures with what seems deliberate intent to disrupt English Pools. It is disheartening to feel that Soccer had no executives wide-awake enough to grasp this golden opportunity. It is a bit late to hope for better co-operation now, but I am still hoping that someone may emerge who will recognise a good thing when they see it.

I will turn now to another subject on which I feel strongly. "Soccer News," July 2, contained the statement that the match between Hakoah and Sth. Melbourne Reserves, played on June 11, had been cancelled and will be replayed at a later date. The reason for the cancellation was presumably due to a goal awarded to Sth. Melb. allegedly been kicked by a spectator. I will not argue as to whether this did actually happen because my view was impeded, but I was of the opinion that the ball bounced off the post into the goal and not off the spectator. However, the principle of the thing is that the Referee's decision, which I had always undersood to be final on the field, has been overruled by the V.S.F.A.'s committee which was not represented at the match. Referee Mason firmly adhered to his decision, after the game, that the goal was legitimate, yet the Association cancel the game on a protest by Hakoah, who, on the field, had displayed perfect sportsmanship. Incidentally, the goal was not, as stated by Hakoah in the "Soccer News," the deciding goal but was the equaliser.

It is not surprising that Soccer has not gained a very strong hold in Australia while such instances of mismanagement occur. If the Referee is not in charge of the game, would the Association please inform Soccer followers in what capacity he is engaged. Good referees are scarce these days and with many more unjust decisions like these they will become scarcer. Soccer will never progress as long as these petty decisions are made.

Another "bone I have to pick" with the Association is their lack of publicity. Why can't a small block advertisement be put in the "Herald" entertainment page publicising the main game of the day to be played at Olympic Park? These games should also be arranged half-seasonally instead of seasonally—thus ensuring that the best games are played there.

In conclusion, I would like to compliment "Soccer News" on the grand job it is doing for Soccer and also to express the hope that my "growls" will be accepted as constructive criticism.

Donald J. C. Sutherland, St. Kilda.

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Clean matches like the Park Rangers-Brighton game, at Middle Park, and other matches of most of the clubs this season are certainly of high standard, and will do much to foster and make soccer better known in Australia. Play can be improved through clubs being successful in gaining new talent from other countries.

"Soccer Follower," Hampton.

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MOVE SPECTATORS BACK.

There have been two probable cases recently where spectators have deflected the ball into goal and a goal has been allowed.

This might have happened in the Park Rangers v. Brighton game at Middle Park last Saturday, in spite of the game being stopped to clear people away from the goal posts.

A referee's task is difficult enough without having to keep an eye on spectators. I commend Mr. Hearn's (Surrey Hills) suggestion of roping off an area around the goal. Club officials should help linesmen, too.

With regard to Metters F.C. report on their game against Y.C.W.M., and criticism of the referee, I suggest that such reports be sent to and dealt with by the rough play and protest committee, and not be publicised in the "Soccer News." The Referees' Association members have no intention of arguments with Clubs or officials on their decisions. They are only answerable to the appropriate authority.

S. Thompson, Ivanhoe.

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Club Jottings.

BAD GROUND CONDITIONS.

In spite of transport difficulties, Hakoah's team and quite a few regular supporters went out to Yarraville. The game was hampered by bad ground conditions. Hakoah J.R.C. scored the first goal in fifteen minutes when Max Kopstein scored in front of the Yarraville goal. The young Yarraville goalie did valuable work and saved his team numerous goals. About a minute before half time, F. Werther scored Hakoah's second goal. The third goal came from an unexpected kick by centre half F. Lester from about 30 yards, which landed right under the Yarraville crossbar.

Hakoah was unlucky not to score more goals, but the slippery clay ground made it difficult for both teams. Hakoah J.R.C. defeated Yarraville 3-0

Hakoah Reserves were ready to play at Yarra Park, but Yarraville Reserves did not appear.

After to-day's game at Olympic Park, inside right Max Kopstein will be married. We would like to wish Max and his bride all the very best for a successful future.

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TO FORFEIT POINTS.

In the event of Clubs cancelling matches and not travelling or failing to field a team, these Clubs will forfeit the points for the fixture.

All Clubs must notify the Asst. Secretary when matches are cancelled in order that he may advise the referee. All home clubs which failed to do this for matches on July 2 must send referee's fees to Mr. E. H. Low, 4 Backham St., Hampton, S.7, with details of same.

EMBARASSING SITUATION.

Sandringham was rocked to its foundations on Saturday. Owing to University's first and second teams not being able to meet their fixtures (transport difficulties), Sandringham's second team played the first team. Both teams were at full strength—the first team being the odd on favourites.

The match was played at a furious pace from the start and the seniors scored in the first minute. For the next 15 minutes the first team did as they pleased, but the Reserves defence kept them at bay. Just on half time, Leydon scored for the Reserves with a terrific shot.

After "Lemon time," the pace was kept up and the Reserves were giving the first a lesson in position and keeping the ball moving. Roy Bennett (Reserve Centre Forward) was keeping his forward line mobile and the First's defence was having a torrid time. Roy Bennett raced through to score, putting the Reserves in front.

The first team threw themselves into the fray and players went over like ninepins. Spectators were treated to some good goalkeeping by Simpson (Reserves), who saved some almost impossible shots. Reserves ran out winners 2 goals to 1—amid much excitement.

"Pop" Finney gave a good exhibition of refereeing; hs handling off the offsides being classical.

PHONING OF RESULTS AFTER SATURDAY MATCHES.

University, Olympic, Bradford and Sunshine Reserves are warned that they will be fined if they do not comply with the rules laid down. It is impossible to keep correct League tables when the above-named clubs persistently default.

By Order of the Council.

TRANSPORT STRIKE.

The game between Metters v. Northcote, played at St. George's Rd., resulted in a win for Northcote by 3 goals to 1. Owing to the transport strike, Metters took the field with 10 men (Johnson, C.F., and Jones, L.H., didn't turn up). Metters opened the scoring after a breakaway. D. Howells sent in a hard driving shot but Northcote's goalkeeper couldn't hold the "greasy ball." Northcote lost many opportunities to score through their forwards failing to shoot. Players on both sides found it hard to control the ball on the wet and muddy ground.

Metters, with the one goal lead, kept the Northcote forward line fighting up till half time. In the second half, Lyon (Metters) gave Northcote their first goal when, trying to clear, he deflected the ball through his own goal. Another quick goal to Northcote when Dwyer sent in a beautiful "header" (while on his knees), giving the goalie no chance. With the pressure on, Metters packed their goal—a mistake which cost them another goal. Northcote were lucky on the day—had Metters a full team Northcote would have been about 4 or 5 goals in arrears.

Report on the Under 17 game between Metters and Coburg, at Pascoe Vale: Of the 9 goals scored Metters' "mud-larks" got 6 and Coburg 3. The ground was like an old disused mill pond. Metters showed good football sense by playing the ball into the mud, where the Coburg defenders couldn't kick it. Every time they tried to clear the ball travelled only a short distance, where Metters' forward line and half-backs got possession and shot. The first time, the taller, heavier, Coburg team got quite a shock.

Special thanks from Metters Soccer Club to Mr. Shaw, who kindly put his car and time to getting our juniors to the ground in time for the match against Coburg.

PUBLIC BAR NOW OPEN
at
OLYMPIC PARK
SATURDAY AFTERNOON
(Rear of Grand Stand)

HAPPY PROSPECTS.

After a bad term with injuries, Ringwood is enjoying the happy prospect of having all players fit. This includes the three players recently married. Harry Aldham and Norm Carroll are back in the fray and Jimmy Nurdon is straining at the leash. Congratulations to all three.

Working bees have the shower baths nearly completed at Bedford Park. The fortnightly dances in the Ringwood Town Hall are proving a great success under the able organisation of our Social Secretary, N. Mackie.

South Melbourne United were the visitors to Ringwood last Saturday. After a hard, but very enjoyable game, Ringwood emerged winners, and thus honours are even between the Clubs.

Ringwood appreciate the South Melbourne official's congratulations to the Ringwood players after the game—a very fine gesture.

Our Reserves dropped the points at Middle Park but enjoyed the game.

The Under 15 and 17 teams are steadily moulding into good combinations and will be a force to be reckoned with in the near future. Ringwood and Brighton Under 15 teams played a 2-2 draw on Saturday.

Our Under 17 boys were most disappointed at the absence of the Park Rangers' team.

A cordial invitation to participate in the Club's activities is extended to new arrivals and to those interested in Soccer football living in the Ringwood district. Contact the Secretary, Mr. Fred Lee, "Pinearrow," Wantirna Road, Ringwood, who will be pleased to give any information and arrange for a welcome to this growing Club.

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MATCHING TACTICS.

The "match of the year" at Middle Park, turned out to be just that in every sense. Park Rangers took charge of the game, checking every move by Brighton to "get cracking," and showed all present how to defeat the "third back" game.

It was not quite so easy, however. After ten minutes' play the ball was driven down to Forrest, who with an amazing burst of speed made for the goal. Just as everyone expected him to shoot, he flicked the ball to Gillis, who beat Jack to the ball and made no mistake, putting Rangers one up. This spurred Bright on and some of the best Soccer seen for years resulted in McDougall equalising for Brighton. Then Rangers came again and with lightning moves had Brghton's defence in anything but a comfortable state.

Forrest made a bold bid which came off, and with all his might drove hard to put Rangers on top with 40 minutes played. Two minutes before half time Forrest sent over a perfect corner kick, for Gillis to head in grazing the top of the bar. Half time: Rangers 2, Brighton 1.

Brighton apparently benefited from their breather and got into their stride straight away, putting great strain on Rangers' defence (but they held out all attempts to score). Ten minutes from time, McDougall evened the score again. Rangers were not finished and kept pegging away without result and the game ended Rangers 2, Brighton 2. A fitting finish to the "best game this year," with honours to Petterson, Forrest, Guy and Gillis for Rangers and McDougall, Dobric for Brighton.

The curtain raiser between the Under 19's provided a good sample of our future seniors. Muirhead scored from a penalty just on half time. Rangers increased their lead to two, but Brighton lessened the gap before time. Park Rangers 2, Brighton 1. The Ladies' Committee have everything in hand for the annual Fancy Dress Dance on Saturday, July 23, at Christ Church Hall, Acland St., St. Kilda.

All communications to be addressed to:—Mr. Roberts Dunstan, c/o "The Herald," Flinders Street, Melbourne.

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